

At Christmas time, we were looking for ways to celebrate the season without the exchange of so much "stuff." We wanted to help our sons see that we can share the love and joy of the holiday season with others, even those we don't know. When the Family to Family Project was introduced at St. Francis, we felt it would be a perfect match for our family. We liked the fact that it would be a long-term project, and that there was the possibility of establishing a real relationship with the child we sponsored. It seemed like a great opportunity to help someone in need on a more personal level. We requested a match with a boy who is the same age and grade as Caden, and we hope they will be able to get to know each other through letters, pictures, and other correspondence. It will be a learning and growing opportunity for all of us as we get to know a little more about life in El Salvador - the similarities, the differences, the challenges, the blessings. We look forward to our interactions with our new friend, and hope that his year will be a little more positive because of this program. We know ours will be!

*The Gobats - Jason, Allison, Caden & Silas
Sponsor of Jose Daniel Alvarenga Rivera*



When my son Logan and I visited our sister parish in 2006, we fell in love with the people - so gracious, caring, giving, loving, resourceful and responsible; yet, the children face significant educational challenges. Because the Family to Family project is designed to keep the children in school as well as encourage relationships between our family and our El Salvadoran family, we immediately knew we wanted to be involved. We look forward to our friendship with Cenayda Beatriz Palma.

*The Newsoms
Sponsor of Cenayda Beatriz Palma*



FAMILY TO FAMILY



JULY PRAYERS

During June and July we are praying for the village of La Montanita, (little mountain), about 60 houses situated on the mountainside with a beautiful view of the valley below. We are praying for a greater crop yield, for the children to succeed in school, and that the government will keep their promises to the people. We will also pray for the new bishop of Chalatenango who arrived on May 27, 2007.

QUARTERLY COLLECTION



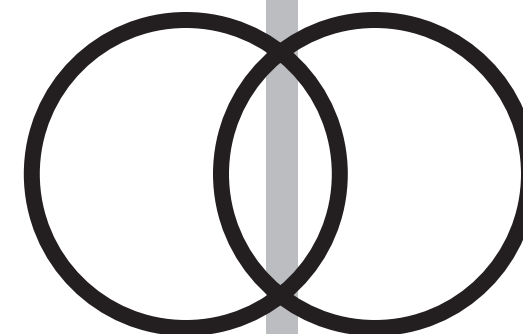
The quarterly collection for our Sister Parish will be taken up the weekend of July 20-21. For your convenience, special envelopes are included in your monthly envelope package. Your prayer & generous monetary support celebrates the spirit of our sister parish relationship.

News about our Sister Parish

San Jose

July 2007

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Sister Parish Relationship

HERMANOS FROM EL SALVADOR ARE COMING

Once again, St. Francis of Assisi Parish has invited a delegation to visit us from our Sister Parish, Ojos de Agua, The tentative dates are Thursday, September 27 through Tuesday, October 9th.

Padre Manuel is arranging for a group of four or five people to visit. The delegation includes the mayor of Las Vueltas, Rosa Candida Alas; a school teacher/superintendent, Irma Gladis Lopez; a musician, Domingo Navarrete; a farmer/homemaker, Maria Jesus Portillo; and a seminarian, Jose Mauricio Quijada who is presently working in our sister parish. . We have had little success in the re-

cent past getting visitor visas for our delegation members. US immigration policy is very restrictive against poor people from Central American countries but we are hopeful that this group will be able to demonstrate enough standing in their community to be granted visitor visas.

When the delegation arrives we will need families to help with hosting the visitors. We will be needing homes for lodging (2 or 3 night stays), families to host meals, entertaining, sight seeing, transportation, shopping and other fun activities. For more information contact Jack @ jackmich44@hotmail.com.

The Sister Parish committee is looking for four or five parishioners who have frequent flyer miles that they would be willing to donate to help us bring a visiting delegation from El

Salvador to Seattle this fall. It takes 35,000 miles for a round trip ticket from San Salvador to Seattle saving about \$700 each ticket. Please call Jack Michaels at 242-6972 to donate miles.



GOT MILES?

FAMILY TO



Our family chose to host a Sister Parish family to establish a personal connection with our fellow Catholics in El Salvador. We plan on visiting them, and helping to provide some unity between our communities, also developing some understanding for us as to what their lives are like, both spiritual and daily physical living. We are hoping to create some solidarity in our tumultuous world, even if it is just a small corner.

The Balsigeris
Maria, Steve, Danica and Jessica
Sponsor of Maria Cristina Escobar Sibrian



Why did we choose to do the Family to Family program? We believe that it is important to look "beyond our own noses" to see the needs of others. We believe that we need to expand our world view and learn more about other cultures. Finally, we believe in the value of education so we chose to do our part to give Nancy an opportunity to learn and grow.

The Dirks
Greg, Nancy, Matthew, Ben and Jessie
Sponsor for Nancy Idalma Calles Guardado

Those of us who have met any of our Sister Parish parishioners need no other motivation to share our bounty and love. These kids deserve our help and our ability to give hope. It is a direct gift from us to them without obstacles.

We invite you to open your heart to this one-on-one giving experience of feeding a child and watching them grow. It's a perfect St. Francis characteristic.

Christal and Gil Welty-Peters
Sponsor of Melvin Omar Cerros



Our family feels fortunate to attend St Francis and its school. To share a small part of our lives with another family in El Salvador is an honor. The example of Archbishop Romero, in his life of love and peace in the face of war on his people and beloved country, is an inspiring and courageous story. It is the least we could do.

Lita and Celia Artis
Ken and Nils Gollersrud
Sponsor of Alexander Delgado Alas

The Power of the Spirit draws our families together

When I visited our Sister Parish in 2003 and saw the children, I knew I had to sponsor a child. They are so desperately poor, gloriously innocent and beautifully loving that for me, they are irresistible! We have been invited to change their lives! We are truly instruments of hope for these 25 children. What a blessing we will be for one another!

Joan Wardian
Sponsor of Jose Alfredo Mejia Ortiz



I love children.

So when I heard about the family to family project, I was definitely in! Helping these children will be as much a benefit for us as it will be for them.

I love the smiling face of Ulises Efrain Rodriguez Orellana, my newest angel.

Zelma Welty
Sponsor of Ulises Efrain Rodriguez Orellana



I am a teacher and our son soon will be. Education is highly valued by our whole family. We wish everyone could have the educational opportunities we have all had. Family to Family is a way to make sure one child will have those opportunities. We know that the money and our best wishes will be conveyed in a personal way by people we know and trust, not by a large organization of strangers.

Jacque Truong and Family
Sponsor of Roberto Carlos Guardado



When I heard of the Family to Family plan to help support one of the children in our Sister Parish, I jumped in immediately because I wanted to help Aminta Marilu (the child I am sponsoring) to further her education and to jump-start this worthy project. I know that I have been blessed with all kinds of opportunities that others in the world may never have. I am pleased to have this chance because this donation will help her more than many other things I could do. It affords me a relationship with someone I can get to know in some little way and she might have a better life because I could do this little bit. I look forward to meeting Aminta Marilu and her family when I visit our Sister Parish in 2008. That will be a wonderful day!

Father Dick
Sponsor of Aminta Marilu Casco Delgado



FAMILY TO

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